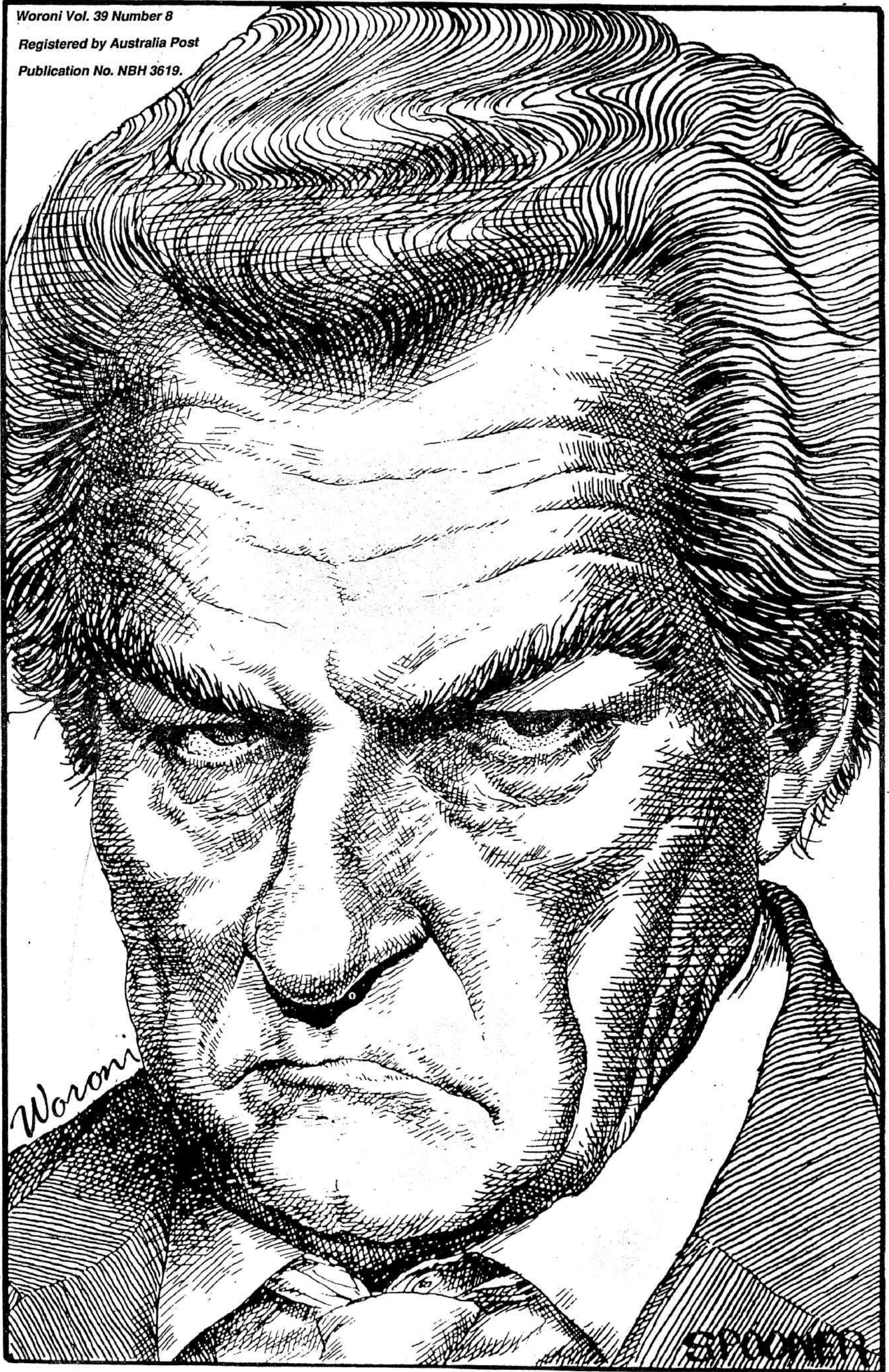


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More of the Same

Woroni

***The Joe and Enid Lyons
Second Annual Lecture***

will be given by

Bob Ansett

Managing Director,

Budget Transport Industries

1 pm

Thursday, 30 July

ANU Arts Centre

Followed by the traditional Liberal Club drinks near Chifley Library.

More information from Peter Phelps on 492 489 (w).

Editorial

The 1987 Federal election campaign saw allegations of media bias from Liberal and National Party MPs and former Deputy Prime Minister, Doug Anthony. Perhaps a more sustainable allegation that could have been made about the media's coverage of the election was that it was, overall, shallow and of poor quality.

The media seemed to prefer to concentrate on following politicians on the campaign trail, campaign trivia, the prospects in marginal seats, gaffes and blunders, and disunity

amongst the Opposition. Such coverage was at the expense of any in-depth consideration of what the parties were actually proposing for Australia, which is surely the basis on which an election should be decided.

Little mention was made of the fact that the ALP is proposing the introduction of a national identification system, which can now be pushed through any joint sitting of Parliament. The Australia Card carries with it enormous implications, yet little was done to examine the pros and cons of the legislation.

Similarly, the debate

surrounding the Liberal Party's tax policy focussed on whether or not the numbers added up, rather than examining whether tax cuts would have the suggested effects on incentive, whether or not smaller government is desirable and whether or not the commissions and departments that the Liberals were proposing to abolish were in fact necessary.

Questioning of politicians in some media interviews suffered from similar shallowness. The interviews of Howard and Sinclair and Hawke and assorted ministers on *60 Minutes* was a good example of an interview which failed to

canvass anything of real importance. One letter writer accurately described the program as "about as exciting as a big mug of hot, flat beer".

The failure of the media to use opportunities such as the *60 Minutes* interview to force politicians to more fully elaborate on their policy proposals only serves to play into the hands of the party's campaign machines and media minders. The media just becomes an unpaid party political advertisement, and the party that wins is the one which uses the right amount of media gloss and window dressing to satisfy its audience.

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Student Work Abroad Program
Talk on Working Overseas
with Pia Stuchcliff from
London
Arranged by Student Services
Australia
Listening Room
Thursday 23rd July 1-2pm

Editors:

News Editor: Gerard Wheeler.

Arts Editor: Valerie Cheng.

Features Editor: Stephen Kirchner.

Sports Editor: Michael Stinziani.

Credits: David Wawn, David Cullen, Natasha Cica, Patricia P.

Published by Lisa Woodgate in her capacity as Director of Student Publications.

Printed by the Queanbyan Age.

This Edition is dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. Oliver North is man of modest means who faces ruinous legal costs should the left-liberal dominated US Congress succeed in launching criminal proceedings against him. His supposed crime is to have aided the contra freedom fighters in Nicaragua. Those who wish to see Oliver North adequately defended are invited to contribute to his legal defence fund at the following address:

Oliver North Legal Assistance Fund
PO Box 50096
Washington, D.C, USA, 20004.

Classifieds

FOUND in Union Court, 1st Friday of exams. A small Silver-grey Bicycle 10-speed.
Contact: Dylan B & G. A012.

LOST

A Gent's WATCH LOST on 9th July 1987
Anybody who found the watch please call 485161

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Mark's Mistake

Dear Eds.,

I could hardly believe my eyes when I read that Peter Phelps was concerned at the right-wing bias currently noticeable in WORONI. Shortly after reading this I found that Gerard Wheeler had been kicked out of the ANU Liberal Club. 'Surely this is a bit extreme and indeed a little late for Phelps to be trying to win votes for the forthcoming student elections', I thought. However, it didn't take long to find out that the real reason Wheeler had been kicked out was because he had won a position on the executive of the Australian Liberal Students' Federation when Phelps had missed out.

Well!!! Factions within factions and a transparent attempt to disassociate the Liberal Club from the unpopular WORONI. All in all it's good to see the campus conservatives imitating their elders in Federal Parliament.

Best wishes,

Mark Paxton
President
Labor Coalition

The ANU Liberal Club Constitution contains no provision for the expulsion of members. Gerard Wheeler has not been expelled from the Club.

Eds.

Sky's the Limit with Woroni

Dear Eds.,

What untold joy blossomed forth in my breast as I opened my issue of WORONI to find that we students are now blessed with the sagacious advice of one Mr Jules Twigg, the 'Student Broker' no less. My heart was further gladdened to find that his venerable comments are so voluminous as not to be contained by merely one issue of WORONI, but to be voiced in a regular column. It is truly fortuitous that Mr Twigg's advice should come at such a time, when I find myself, like the majority of my fellow students, contemplating the sundry thousands of dollars in my bank account, and wondering to what purpose I can possibly put my wealth. Paying the \$250 administration fee and general services fee and buying all my textbooks at the beginning of the year put but a small dent in my bank balance. I was half-inclined simply to allow interest to build up on my fortune, but that is rather bourgeois, and now that WORONI readers have a 'Student Broker' to advise us, the sky is the limit! Can see the zeroes multiplying before my very eyes.

Yours, with deep-felt gratitude
Deborah Lupton

Labor and the Bored

Dear Eds.,

I would like to congratulate Bob Wheel- don for helping to implement plans originally conceived by a Labor dominated Union Board. It is not tub-thumping grandstanding to point out that it was the hard-working members of last year's Board who worked out the basic design and priorities of the current plans. It would be the BMT who would be engaging in the not so fine art of grand- standing, not to mention pork barrelling, if they claimed otherwise. Having said that the BMT must take the final responsi- bility for the current state of the Union's development.

The most glaring inconsistency of the BMT's implementation is in the financing of the proposals. In their "fist-full-of- dollars" 1986 campaign the BMT promis- ed to reduce the Union's reliance on the compulsory union fee. Does anyone believe that they can reduce the level of GSF through increasing the union's indebtedness to the tune of one million dollars. It would be the utmost hypo- crisis to suggest that they could reduce this reliance by the compulsory per capita levy that has been rumoured to be considered.

The union plan is a long-term plan that was designed to overcome the ram- shackle ad hoc developments that pre- viously characterised the union. The present board may have committed the union to a certain level of expenditure, but there is some flexibility in the imple- mentation of the plan and, certainly, in the allocation of rooms.

Boyd Hunter

Best Wishes from Mark to Cliff

Dear Eds.,

Underneath the profound editorial comment in the last WORONI I came across the 'obituary' of Cliff Smith. After years and years, or is it decades, Cliff has finally decided to move on and stop taunting unsuspecting left-wing undergraduates. I wish him well and hope for his sake that he is more successful than his Rhodesian/Zimbabwean name- sake - I dare say he feels the same.

Yours
Make Paxton

Tenants' Rights

Dear Eds.,

I would like to recommend that stud- ents be wary of their tenacy commit- ments to ANU residential colleges.

Although I left Toad Hall in mid- February, I just recently received my bond after months of consultation with Toad Hall and the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre. The complications were due to misinformation, but may I urge students to be fully aware of their ten- acy agreements and that if there is a point of conflict, to consult the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre (Ltd) in Bunda Street, Civic.

Thank you
R. Lynd-Stevenson

Corporate Woroni?

Dear Eds.,

Have you noticed that you have further competition - Sullivan's Reach. Upon reading the first edition of this "informative" supplement I have come to the conclusion that advertisements are far more enjoyable than articles. And thank God that about three-quarters of the paper's content is given to ads. It is obvious that this "extended advertising supplement" is leading that way in campus journalism. The only problem which I can see is that it dedicates all of its time to small business. What ever happened to the good ol' multinational that we have all grown accustomed to. If you want to win back my confidence I suggest you start talking to IBM, McDonald Douglas, or Coca-Cola. Only in this way will Woroni start to attain a position of relevance in campus affairs.

In anticipation,
B. Igbiz

Phelps Scandal!

Dear Eds.,

I am writing to inform the students of the ANU that myself and the Chairman Bob Wheeldon have been forced to resign our positions on the Union Board.

As you would know we have both recently suffered heavy financial losses in your "Blue Chip Competition". As a result, Union Board Shares have dropped dramtically, due to lack of investor confidence.

We are making this decision with great regret.

Yours Faithfully,
Peter Phelps
Deputy Chair

Middle Class Conspiracy

Dear Eds.,

Mining Magnates, Charlie Wallbanger & Co. have made a discovery to change the economic outlook of Australia. They found under Sydney, a coal seam three metres thick and valued at at least \$100,000 million. (This is the mineral worth they claim for Kakadu). They want to dig up Sydney. Concerned resid- ent groups are part of a "middle class conspiracy against the working class of Australia", and the New Right will fight them for "our welfare".

Those who will wreak destruction aren't afraid to fudge figures and give us an inflated view of the mineral wealth of Kakadu. The \$100,000 million is a total mineral value and bears little relation- ship to what is actually recoverable, or who the net gains (if there are any) will benefit. The Peko Wallsends of this world will distort the truth to serve their own greed irrespective of the cost for all Australians.

Ick Hempton



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It's Official. Students Drink

HOBART — Recent studies on drug usage undertaken at the University of Tasmania reveal that one third of all university students are drinking alcohol that could lead to alcohol-related health problems.

While a high percentage of students are heavy drinkers, the survey carried out by Dr Stuart McLean, senior lecturer in pharmacy shows that only a small percentage of students took drugs for recreational use.

The results of the survey have been published in the latest issue of the "Medical Journal of Australia".

Heavy drinkers were defined as students who consumed five or more alcoholic drinks daily. Dr McLean said that students who drank regularly or heavily, were likely to continue doing so and that females were particularly at risk from later health problems.

Despite the high incidence of heavy drinkers, only one quarter of the students surveyed smoked cigarettes, one quarter had given up and half had never smoked.

"The percentage of students who drink heavily is on a par with the adult population, but the percentage who smoke tobacco is lower than the adult population usage," Dr McLean said.

"Students are perhaps more aware of the adverse effects of tobacco than they are of the adverse effects of alcohol."

Excess Demand for Accountants

Employment opportunities for graduate accountants are at an all time high, according to Mr Greg Considine, careers and recruitment officer for the Australian Society of Accountants.

Mr Considine pointed out that an accounting qualification holds the key to a wide range of careers in both the public and private sectors and can lead to top jobs in business, government and industry.

"It has been said that there is such a shortage (for new accountants), graduates are playing the field, weighing up what each potential employer has to offer.

"Starting salaries are among the best offered. While they average around \$18,000 to \$19,000 for someone in first year out of university, offers of \$27,000 are commonplace.

Students' Decadent Lifestyles

BEIJING — The Reuter news service reports that China plans to abolish free university education and to force undergraduates to borrow their way through university, after allegations that many waste public funds on drinking, gambling and extravagance.

A national education meeting approved rules which would force students to take out loans to cover the average 2,300 yuan (\$A870) needed for a year's higher education.

The sum is nearly twice the annual salary for a typical university graduate. China's "People's Daily" quotes the Vice-Minister of Education as saying that many of China's 1.9 million undergraduates cared little about their studies or behaviour.

Since an ideological campaign was launched on campuses early this year in the wake of nationwide student demonstrations for democracy, undergraduates have been accused of leading pampered and decadent lifestyles.

Hangzhou University in east China, expelled or disciplined 33 geography students last month after a wild gambling party.

Campus Communist Party officials have said male students gambled, drank too much and held wild parties, while females spent extravagantly on fashionable clothes.

Sound familiar?

"Substantial increases gained with experience and really the sky is the limit for someone who has combined a major in accounting and computing or accounting and law.

"But salary is not the be-all and end-all. Students should know that accounting is such a varied profession that there is certainly some area of it they would enjoy.

He said that the three main areas of work for young accountants are in private accounting practices, providing specialised services, such as taxation, auditing and management consultancy.

"We really want to get through to young people what the career has to offer and the opportunities available.

An accountant is not a book-keeper but a financial manager with an Australian qualification that is recognised around the world."

Australianising Uni Courses

CANBERRA — A recently published report entitled "Windows onto Worlds" recommends that tertiary studies should be "Australianised". The report calls for more university chairs in Australian studies, for the teaching and research of the Australian experience; for the reprinting of Australian literary classics; and for the re-training of academics to lecture on Australia.

At the launch of the report, the Minister for Education, Senator Susan Ryan, said that Australia should be "placed at the centre of what is taught and learned in Australian education." The report set out for the first time "exactly where and how the Australian experience can be made to form part of tertiary studies," she said.

The report also identified omission and failures in teaching and writing about Australia, as well as serious weak-

nesses in tertiary employment policies which lead to those shortcomings.

Senator Ryan said that "we need an Australian brand of excellence in all dimensions of the national economy and national culture." She particularly called on faculties of science, engineering and mathematics to be influenced by the report. The Minister argued that education was the nation's best investment. "This report is another demonstration of ways in which we can capitalise on that investment, increase the dividends from our investment, re-invest in the most productive and creative fields of work," she said.

Senator Ryan considered that the report's recommendations should be synchronised "with all our broader efforts to make Australia a more productive culture, a more creative country, a more thoughtful and skilful nation."

Griffith's Growing

BRISBANE — Griffith University is the fastest growing university in Australia. Located 10 kilometres south of the Brisbane GPO, it experienced a 15 percent growth in student numbers to 4991 in 1986 with an enrolment well over 5000 this year.

About 2000 of these enrolments are new students in 1987.

To cater for increased numbers, the degree courses offered by the Schools of Administration, Modern Asian Studies and Science have increased their scope to include such areas as Law in Administration, Media Production, Biotechnology, Genetics and Microelectronics.

A new Arts/Law program is to be introduced next year will allow students to undertake combined studies in law and Japanese. The new course involves study of law at the Queensland Institute of Technology and study of Japanese in Griffith's School of Modern Asian Studies.

The university plans to offer new degree programs in International Trade and Relations and Technology Management which will be the first of its kind in Australia.

Griffith intends to offer a broader range of more specific professionally-oriented training through postgraduate diplomas to complement existing degrees.

If the university's growth rate continues as predicted it will have doubled its size between the end of 1983 and the end of 1990.

Forced Computing at Wollongong

WOLLONGONG — A landmark decision by the University of Wollongong will ensure that no new students will be accepted unless they use a computer. To take effect in 1991, the new Computer Literacy and Access Policy will require students to have a knowledge of keyboard and word processing skills even if they choose to study humanities subjects.

The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Ken McKinnon said computing was no longer a "special interest". He said that "computer equipment is universal and is having an increasing impact on every facet of society.

"Every tertiary educated student must have at least a basic understanding of computers and an ability to use them. University staff would also be expected to acquire these."

Courses will be available in the first year of studies for those without computer skills. But no credit will be awarded to students who will be forced to undertake these bridging courses.

Gerard Wheeler.

"Bombers keep a coming
Engines softly humming
The stars & stripes are running for
their own big show."

Read About It

"US Forces give the nod
It's a setback for your country
Bombs and trenches all in rows
Bombs and threats still ask for more

Divided world the CIA
Who controls the issue
You leave us with no time to talk
You can write your own assessment!"

US Forces

Peter Garrett, ex-Senate hopeful, ex-ANU student and rock star recently sang these lyrics and more in Canberra. These are his views on superpower culpability and as a peace movement leader and some sort of youth hero, these views are influential. But are Garrett's views, and the views of those like Redgum and Billy Bragg, on the USA and USSR well founded.

All the evidence suggests they are wrong. That basic tenet of the peace movement — that the US is just as bad as, if not worse than, the USSR, is completely misleading. So, what is it based on then?

The US is an open democracy — you can go everywhere and say anything. As former US President John Kennedy said "Democracy may have its faults, but we don't have to build a wall to keep our people in." The facts on its international actions are easy to come by. Irangate is a case in point — all these facts eventually come out and it is the free press and the democratic institutions which are at the forefront of investigations.

The USSR however is closed. It just goes to show how much we accept this that we congratulate mild criticisms of corruption or the removal of illegal radio jamming as genuine reform.

Consider the coverage given to Vietnam compared to that of "Russia's Vietnam" — Afghanistan. While Jane Fonda could frolic around Hanoi, Amnesty International and the Red Cross aren't even allowed in Kabul — let alone journalists, who get shot at.

So we must realise right at the beginning that we are looking at two systems through different glasses. America's great features are forgotten, its faults examined. The Soviet systems' relative improvements are worshipped, its faults assumed or hidden.

Soviet Motives

Information still gets out however. One source of information is foreign observers of the Soviet Union — Kremlinologists. Ian Fitzgerald quoted many of these in his Peace and Environment Centre article (published in April's WORONI). The sources he was too scared to use were the defectors. The flow of them, from humble sailors to KGB colonels, continues unabated. Having been at the heart of the Soviet system, the high-ranking defectors can tell us the most.

There are many views among Kremlinologists about Soviet intentions. They "... vary from beliefs in Soviet aggressive expansionism (Pipes), through beliefs in Soviet opportunism (Bider) to beliefs that the Soviets operate from a more defensive, survival-orientated posture

Is Peter Garrett Right?

(Kennan)" — as the editors of *Foreign Policy USA/USSR* note [Kegley & McGown 1983], Fitzgerald thinks these views are all CIA propaganda or CIA-censored. But he can offer absolutely no evidence of this, just like he offers no evidence for many of his other allegations.

The Kremlinologists' views may differ but they all basically mean the same thing; as a high ranking military defector, writing under the name Viktor Suvorov comments.

"The Soviet Communist dictatorship ... seeks to preserve its own existence ... A Communist regime cannot feel secure so long as another kind of life exists anywhere near it, with which its subjects can draw comparisons." [Suvorov 1984].

The Soviet Union's own survival is based on ridding the world of places where its subjects can escape to. A "survival-orientated posture" is thus the

Defectors Galore

There is no doubt that many are attracted to the freedom beacon the West represents. Four hundred thousand KGB Border Guards make sure the Soviet people don't escape from their socialist paradise. There is the Berlin Wall for all to see, but there are also many other ways of stopping escape.

Often insurmountable bureaucratic barriers are put in the way of people merely wanting to visit relatives in the West — you need permission from your boss and the Ministry of Tourism just to apply for a passport. Travellers to the West must leave a member of their family at home as a hostage. The wife of a Soviet defector, Stanislaw Levchenko was sacked from her job and starved to death, while her son ran away from school due to organized harassment and regular beatings. They however had nothing to do with the defection; they didn't even know it was going to happen [Barron 1983].



same thing as "aggressive expansionism". Suvorov gives a vivid example of this.

In 1968, Romania was disassociating itself from the Soviet Union much more than Czechoslovakia. But the Soviets crushed the Czechs, not the Romanians. Suvorov's theory explains this.

"... not a single Soviet subject dreams of escaping to Romania or aspires to exchange Soviet life for the Romanian version. Therefore Romania is not a dangerous enemy."

A freer, democratic Czechoslovakia however presented itself as a beacon to disaffected Soviet subjects.

The Third World economy is shown by the fact that a typical Moscow worker would have to labour 53.5 hours to feed a family of four. The same worker in the American capital would have to work 18.6 hours a week. (NFIBREF 1982). The high female participation rate does not reflect high principles of sexual equality — every pair of arms is required to keep the Soviet system grinding on. On the subject of sexual exploitation, the Party supports hotels where local teenage girls are blackmailed into prostitution with photos of their own rape.

Take note, the many religious members of the peace movement — religion is suppressed. "The Party is resolved to rip apart the whole fabric of Islamic

culture and society" [Geoffrey Wheeler 1976]. In Bulgaria, the Turkish minority are not allowed to wear Islamic clothes; they must change their Turkish names; mosques are being bulldozed; Turkish newspapers are forbidden. In Lithuania in 1986 (post-"Glasnost") a 76 year old man was sentenced to six years jail for distributing a church newspaper. Half of the Soviet Union's 400,000 Jews are known to want to leave, [RFEF 1986]

There is not only economic, religious and cultural repression but political. Even in this Gorbachev-glasnost era, 20,000 remain in the Gulag [Mendev 1986], and who knows how many more are locked in psychiatric hospitals. Andrei Sakharov claims "the trickle of political prisoners being released from Soviet jails has now dried up" [Economist 5/87]. In fact, glasnost as it is, is a huge fraud. There has been no criticisms of higher than middle managers [RFEF 1986], the economic reforms are having no effect and if they work, will still take 20 years till they are effective [Soviet Academy of Sciences 1987]. Some Soviet economists believe power-mongering stopped the reforms going as far as they should have, e.g. Tatyana Zaslavskaya.

Anyway the reforms are merely to get the stagnant economy going, not to institute social change. For instance the Soviets claim their already "perfect democracy" will be further "perfected" with competition for elections. This is irrelevant. The Soviet Parliament meets 10 days a year — even less than the Queensland Parliament — and it never discusses anything relating to the Army, KGB, military, industry or prisons. The term "rubber stamp" is most apt. The number of Jewish prisoners of conscience has doubled since Gorbachev came to power [Australia/Israel Review 4/87].

The Soviet Union with all its forms of repression can only be called a prison, as Suvorov calls it. There is little prospect for any internal change in the near future. The only way for the Soviet Union's ruling oligarchy to ensure its own survival is to destroy the opposition. It is going about this on two fronts — the military and the political.

The Bear's Claws

We must ask ourselves why the Soviets have 2.7 million ground troops to NATO's 2 million in Central Europe, 1075 fighter planes to 452 and 46,610 tanks (with many hidden reserves) to NATO's 20,314 [Newsweek 4/87]. This is evidence enough of offensive intention.

One excuse for this huge conventional advantage is fear of invasion. There is historical justification for this with Napoleon and Hitler's blitzkrieg, but there is no justification for it now. The Soviet Union has a military intelligence service equal in size to the whole West German Army. Along with a whole KGB service, there is enough analytical brainpower there to know the West's democratic systems would never allow it. Service I of the KGB First Directorate successfully predicted in the mid 1970s a swing to conservatism in the 1980s. It would also realise, along with most Westerners, that Soviet fear of attack is completely unfounded. Looking at a map of the positions of the opposing armed forces reinforces this belief [Newsweek 4/87].

The boot is indeed on the other foot. The arms statistics, Soviet actions and defectors' testimonies all show the Red Army is designed to sweep over Western Europe.

David Wawn

EDUCATION ENTERS THE MARKETPLACE

Within two years, Australia's first private university will be open for business.

The Bond University of Applied Technology dates back to a suggestion made over a decade ago by Alan Bond's Gold Coast property agent, Brian Orr, that a tertiary institution should be included in a residential development close to Surfers Paradise.

Though he dismissed the idea at the time, Alan Bond's chance to turn the dream into reality came in 1982, when Bond Corporation bought Burleigh Forest, a pine plantation a short drive from Miami Beach.

Demand for a new tertiary institution in Queensland has existed for over ten years. According to the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, more students were turned away last year from Queensland's three public universities than in any other State. Calls for funding for a fourth university were rejected twice in two years by the Federal Government. Canberra's best offer was a college of advanced education to be located in a disused primary school.

Mrs Jo Anne Cracknell, a masters graduate and former teacher from California, determined to see her children having access to higher education on the Gold Coast, gathered material from overseas universities in a bid to persuade the Commonwealth Government to change its mind. She seized upon the idea of a private university and found it could be self-supporting.

Federal MP, Peter White, introduced Mrs Cracknell to Brian Orr, whom he knew was toying with the idea of a tertiary institution for Bond's Burleigh Forest site. Orr was given approval by Bond Corporation to hire Mrs Cracknell as a consultant to continue her research, and within months the project was off and running under the Bond banner.

Since then, there has been no turning back.

Over 250 academics have applied for the six professorial chairs at the Bond University. The newly appointed vice-chancellor of the university, Professor Don Watts, said that there would not have been so many applicants from Australia and around the world had the institution not been seen as a respectable university.

Professor Watts said the Bond University "was the most exciting educational experiment in Australian history."

Thirty million dollars and all the land involved in the project had been provided by the two joint venture partners, Bond Corporation and the EIE Development Group of Japan which has interests in electronics, computers and education.

A new company, Bond University Trust, which will own all the assets of the Gold Coast university will be floated in 1991 when it will be listed on the stock exchange.

Additional funds for construction will be raised by way of loans to the joint venture.

Four main academic buildings, an administration block and a library are part of the first stage being built on the 183 hectare Surfers Paradise site. In time, a lake will be provided of sufficient length to accommodate a full 21 kilometre Olympic rowing course.

The university which will open its doors to about 900 undergraduate stud-



ents in 1989 has a financial structure comprising three elements. The first is a non-profit company, the Bond University Ltd., which will run the university and derive its revenue from student fees which will go back into the university. The company will seek further support from the private sector in the form of direct funding, scholarships and cadetships. Professor Watts said about half of the 900 students would be Australian. Of the remaining 450 students, 30 per cent would be from South East Asia and 10 per cent coming from both Japan and North America.

The second element of the University is a private trust, the Burleigh Forest Trust, which owns land zoned for residential development surrounding the university. Initial plans were for between 50 and 60 townhouses in an exclusive suburb. Eventually, the land could house between 8,000 and 10,000 people.

The final element is the Bond University Trust which will own all the

university buildings and land, a Research Park and shopping centre. The university will eventually pay rent to the trust.

Professor Watts told a news conference that "the university will not make a profit. However, a successful university is always surrounded by a diversity of commercial activity. The sponsoring companies quite rightly expect to generate income and make a profit from the Research Park and their surrounding commercial and property developments."

He said any company providing the nation with a "great university" also deserved to accrue "intangible" benefit.

Professor Watts, a former vice-chancellor of the Curtin University of Technology in Perth won the Bond top job ahead of 200 applicants from Australia and overseas. His salary is to be \$150,000 a year, double the sale of other vice-chancellors.

He said that with the founding of the new private university Australian higher education has "come of age".

"This initiative will decrease demands on the taxpayer and provide a yardstick against which our public system will

be compared and through which the accountability of all universities will be established."

Already, demand for the limited number of places at the Surfers Paradise campus has been high. Mr John Ford, secretary of the university's advisory council said "we have not yet formulated in detail the information prospective students will need, but that should be available late this year or early next year." It is expected that fees will range from \$7,000 to \$15,000 a year depending on the course being studied.

Both Mr Ford and Professor Watts scoffed at suggestions that the university's degrees would be substandard.

Professor Watts said that "if at any stage we could be accused of having substandard degrees, we would lose our position in the marketplace."

Like any other organisation, the Bond University of Applied Technology will prosper or plummet depending upon the quality of its product. For the university to survive, Bond's graduates must be marketable.

Gerard Wheeler.

Bushweek Bonanza

Bushweek has for many years been the highlight of the ANU social calendar. It involves all the students on campus and provides a whole week of good excuses to get out, have fun and meet other students.

This year's Bushweek promises to be one of the best ever with a large range of activities lasting the entire week.

One of the aspects of Bushweek which is often forgotten is that it is supposed to raise money for charity. This year there will be a larger emphasis placed on the raising of money for charity while still providing a good time for students.

Among the activities this year are some new ones including the first ANU B & S Ball, a Battle of the Bands competition and a Sumo Wrestling competition as well as the old favourites including the Interhall Bar Crawl, Iron-Gut and an anonymously organised Scavenger Hunt.

Here is a run-down on the proposed Bushweek activities:

B & S Ball — Although there has for a number of years been an Interhall B & S, ANU has never had its own full-scale B & S. This is about to change on the 9th August with the ANU Bachelor and Spinners' Ball.

Cost is \$20 for snacks and all you can drink as well as live music. Dress is strictly formal and a good time is virtually guaranteed (ask anyone that's been what B & S's are like).

There will also be a recovery the next morning (Monday).

International Food Fair — Monday Lunchtime provides an excellent opportunity to taste food from other

countries. There will be numerous stalls set up in union court selling overseas foods at reasonable prices for everyone's enjoyment.

Stand-up Comic & Pewter Night — It's on again the annual Forestry Pewter Night on the night of the 10th. This has always been excellent entertainment and a great night out, this year should be even better as it will be hosted by stand-up comedian Graeme Dods-worth who will also provide comic entertainment throughout the night.

Chicken & Champagne Breakfast — Tuesday morning marks the Union's first Chicken & Champagne Breakfast. Cheap champagne and chicken will be available and it's a great way to start off the day.

Theatre — At 1pm Tuesday the "Next Stage Theatre Company" from Sydney Uni will perform as part of their national tour. The show is specifically directed to tertiary students and is a combination of music, dance, comedy and spectacle.

Transylvania Night — Tuesday night brings three great bands to the union for "Transylvania Night". Playing will be "The Screaming Tribesman", "Wood-oo Lost", and "The Creeps".

Come dressed appropriately (skeletons, Dracula, etc.) and you will receive free Gluhwein and a chance to win prizes.

Proceeds after costs will go to the Bushweek charity.

Battle of the Bands — The final of the union's Battle of the Bands will be held on Wednesday in the form of a daytime concert behind the union building. Drinks

from a downstairs bar will be available and this is a great way to see Canberra's up and coming musical talent.

Interhall Bar Crawl — Not much needs to be said about the Interhall Bar Crawl as they are virtually of legendary proportions on this campus and this one will be no exception culminating in a live band at the union until late.

Debate — The Annual Bushweek Debate is on again. This year's topic is "That Canberra is a waste of a good sheep paddock" with a number of local and interstate celebrities debating the topic.

Officially Thursday night is a Quiz Night to be held at the union. However correspondence received from unknown sources suggest that a scavenger hunt list will be distributed to the halls and colleges. However it should be stressed that the Students' Association and the Bushweek Directors have no involvement and do not condone the scavenger hunt.

Friday begins with full day of activities at the union.

Woodchop — The woodchop will be on again with the foresters throwing out the challenge to other departments and faculties.

Boat Race — This year an attempt will be made to have the world's longest boat race involving as many people as possible. It will be held at 12.00 in union court so come along and help set a record.

SUMO WRESTLING — Japan's Favourite Sport for Big (& little) Men & Women

When: Bush Friday 11.30am
Where: Sullivan's Creek behind the Union
Entry: Either

1. Interhall B & G has issued a challenge. Can you make it onto your college team to topple Slim Chaikin

2. Individuals: Anyone welcome
\$1 entry fee refunded in the form of a beer if you turn up.

Contact:
Collect an application form from the Bushweek Directors at the S.A. Office or
Contact Doug Clark 952359 (h) or Slim Chaikin at B & G B301.

Dress: Appropriate Sumo gear (see next WORONI).

Iron-Gut — One of the highlights of Bushweek has always been the Iron-Gut Competition and this year's may include a challenge from other universities' "iron-guts". This has always been great viewing and not to be missed.

The afternoon winds on in the union with the Belly-sliding Competition and Boat Races and for those still conscious the bar will be open all night.

At the functions during Bushweek there will be collections for the charity and profits from all the events will also go to the charity.

BUSH WEEK, 1963

This is a provisional programme for BUSH WEEK, 1963:

25th-26th July:

Attempt to set a record for Ball Bouncing.

27th July:

PROCESSION

31st July:

Address by **A. GEORGE MARTIN** at lunch-time in the Common Room.

2nd August:

Annual and grand Pilgrimage to the ancient and romantic town of **BUNGENDORE**.

We also hope to arrange plenty of stunts in Civic on Friday evening, 26th July, and more addresses during the following week.

Flashback
July 1963

BUSH WEEK IS COMING

The sun will rise slowly over the eastern horizon on what will be another quiet and uninterrupted week as far as the citizens of Canberra are concerned.

However, when the sun sets at the end of the week the same week those citizens will have wondered why they thought Canberra to be such a quiet and restful place.

For during that week they will have been buffeted, stirred and hit by the University. That week will be Bush Week during which we hope to accomplish two things.

Firstly we hope to raise money for charity and secondly we hope to make people aware of the University in Canberra. How can we do this? Only by the concerted effort of the whole student body can we hope to accomplish anything worthwhile. During the week our two major activities will be the PROSH (procession through Civic) on the 27th July and the trip to BUNGENDORE on the 3rd August. For success in both of these ventures we must have the help of all students. However, we also hope to arrange many

more stunts during the week.

So think, think and think again and when you get ideas write them down and act on them. Contact the Bush Week Director, Bruce Donald at Bruce Hall, who is the co-ordinator of all activities. There are terrific opportunities to us in Canberra.

All clubs and societies have been contacted on the matter of Bush Week so please try to work in conjunction with them to make this week a success.

Remember we live or die during Bush Week on your efforts so as the "model" said to the minister, "get into it and let us know of your ideas". This is the climax of the University year, "the time when we break out and run riot".

CONDOM UPROAR AT CURTIN

PERTH - The student press at the Curtin University of Technology recently caused uproar in conservative circles. The front page of a recent edition of "Grok", the Guild newspaper, carried a photo montage showing NACAIDS spokesman, Ita Buttrose, holding a crucifix encased in a condom.

The Anglican and Catholic Chaplains at the University immediately issued a joint statement saying: "the picture in question is insensitive and offensive to us, and to the belief of a significant proportion of the Curtin University population."

Guild vice-president, Mr Peter Grant, said that the eye-catching cover was designed to draw attention to the problem of AIDS "I know it's controversial, but we felt that to draw attention to the problem it was necessary to be outrageous."

"Maybe the complaints are a sign of the times - a new puritanism on campus."

Curtin Liberal Club president, Mr David Parker had sent copies of the publication to the Catholic Archbishop of Perth and to Ms Buttrose.

"It's quite disgraceful and derogatory and I'm appalled that this is how our compulsory guild fees are spent," he said.

Ms Buttrose was outraged to learn that her photograph had been used in the contrived front-page montage. In a statement sent to "The Record" the Catholic newspaper in Western Australia she said "I am shocked and dismayed that students should do this and commit a sacrilege with the crucifix."

"AIDS is not a laughing matter and I would have hope that university students, who are presumed to be intelligent, would know better."

Father John Jegorow, a Catholic youth chaplain in Perth labelled the montage a "blatant sacrilegious obscenity" and said that it was interesting that almost the entire population of Curtin University could be manipulated and lulled into silence by an

irresponsible and half witted group." He thought it was appropriate that the newspaper, "Grok", should be re-named "Grot".

The montage caused so much uproar that Mr Barry MacKinnon, the Western Australian Leader of the Opposition asked a question of the Education Minister in State Parliament. The Minister replied saying that the Vice-Chancellor of the University had received a commitment from the Guild that an apology would be published in the next edition of "Grok".

This assurance may not be a sufficient response according to some parents who were previously willing to allow their sons and daughters to attend Curtin University in 1988. One such parent wrote to a Perth newspaper saying "it was totally unnecessary to have such an obscene picture on the front page - a picture I consider to be a profanity and extremely offensive. I am horrified to think my daughter will be subjected to such disgusting material."

Gerard Wheeler



GROK APRIL/MAY 1987

state opposition head supports Ita's Aids cure

Mr R Fletcher
Editor - Grok

Dear Editor,

Recently my attention was drawn to your composite picture of Ita Buttrose holding a condom encased crucifix.

I write to express my concern and disgust at this sacrilegious picture. Perhaps the most disturbing element is the fact that you have allowed your publication to sink to such a low level. There must surely be people of intelligence within your organisation who could produce thought provoking articles and pictures without having to rely on the bizarre to draw attention to your publication.

Perhaps if one were to follow the Code of Conduct and Morals as enunciated by the person you seek to debase we wouldn't be facing what is potentially the largest disaster to ever confront mankind.

Yours faithfully
Barry MacKinnon MLA
Leader of the Opposition

GROK JUNE 1987

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**FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE 487818
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

page 10

13 - 20 July, 1987.



THE STUDENT BROKER

Jules Twigg



THE 'BLUE-CHIP' REPORT

Share market conditions faced by investors throughout June were largely affected by movements in the international gold price. At one stage the gold price per ounce fell through a major support level of \$US450, which saw the All Ordinaries index shed 32.1 points on the 24th June. Trading was also affected by uncertainties about the federal elections, and nervousness ahead of the end of the financial year.

'BLUE-CHIP' STANDINGS AS AT

30 JUNE 1987

Rank	Investors	Market Capitalization (\$)
Top Five:		
1	Jon Luff	11,360
2	Ann Smith	10,730
3	Simon Macnab	10,590
4	Kate Newman	10,400
5	Peter Woodman	10,290

The winners for the month were investors who took little risk, they sought out their stocks carefully and held on to them for the entire period. The exceptional player in the top five being Kate Newman, who did a quick and very profitable trade early in June, which put her up in fourth position.

A large amount of investors just outside of the five wisely kept their money liquid in the expectation of a more stable stock market in the new financial year. Once they decide to set up their portfolios, they could become a real threat in the 'Blue Chip'.

The losers for the month were the gold speculators, who were hard hit by the fall in the international gold price. Realized losses included \$650 on Sons of Gualia by the Bagwan, whilst unrealized losses included Sean Leaver's \$1200 on Mistral Mines, Christine Lloyd's \$1000 loss on East Gold, whilst the largest unrealized loss was on Bob Wheeldon's speculation on a high technology stock called Newtech, he is losing \$2,500.

6	'The Judges'	10,215
7	'Piousness Pty Ltd'	10,210
8	Peter Letts	10,205
9	Tim Huang	10,068
10	Tina Walton	10,000
11	Terry Miller	10,000
12	Bronti Moules	10,000
13	Cam Spencer	10,000
14	Mike Walters	10,000
15	Cathy Van Der Veer	10,000
16	Ken Odgers	10,000
17	Stuart Carrail	10,000
18	Glenn Downey	10,000
19	David Mason	10,000
20	Wesley Keys	10,000
21	David Oliver	10,000
.....		
22	Sarah Laverty	9,910
23	Guy Ped	9,851
24	Catherine Brady	9,622
25	Michael Loke	9,622
26	'Bucket Enterprises'	9,609
27	Jenny Geddies	9,370
28	Jeremy Stuparich	9,278
29	The Bagwan'	9,075
30	Paul Ferguson	8,890
31	Sean Leaver	8,810
32	Christine Lloyd	8,150
33	Geoff Slater	8,025
34	Peter Phelps	7,500
35	Bob Wheeldon	7,500

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Jean-Francois Revel, *HOW DEMOCRACIES PERISH*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1985. pp. 376.

Written by one of Western Europe's leading anti-communist intellectuals, *How Democracies Perish* sets out to demonstrate that the Western democracies are slowly but surely being subjugated by the totalitarian Soviet Union. Revel maintains that the democracies are actually aiding the Soviets in this through their failure to understand the Soviet Union and its foreign policy behaviour and their repeated appeasement of the Soviet Union's acts of international aggression and encroachment on Western interests.

Revel reminds us that the democracies are not structured to defend themselves and that their strengths as democracies are often their weaknesses in terms of facing the totalitarian threat. Their internal democratic political processes mean that they are inward looking and tend to subordinate foreign policy to domestic political considerations. Totalitarian states, by contrast, are inherently outward looking, as they must compensate for their internal problems through external expansion. The democracies cannot maintain continuity in their foreign policies due to regular changes of government, whereas the Soviet union has had more or less consistent foreign policy aims since 1917. The Western countries are also disunited, unlike the Eastern bloc, sometimes preventing the development of common responses to common threats. The tolerance of differing views within democracies means that those committed to their destruction can often work legally within them. Revel sees a convergence between democracy's internal and external enemies.

Democracies are also disadvantaged by the great inequality in the media coverage the two political systems face. While every fault of democratic societies is religiously scrutinised by the Western media, the closed societies of the Eastern bloc can get away with human rights abuses on a massive scale because the media never get to see these societies first hand.

Revel castigates the people and the elites of the democracies for engaging in double standards and moral equivalence, as they expect more from the democracies while excusing the Eastern bloc for its crimes. The West often fails to place the communist genocides of the past into historical context and has distorted the history of the division of Europe and the Yalta agreement to suit their policies of appeasement.

The democracies tend to judge themselves by inaccessible ideals and are over-critical of their internal political and economic performance and their external policies, while the Soviet Union gets away with literally murder. "Exaggerated self-criticism", he says, "would be a harmless luxury of civilisation if there were no enemy at the gate condemning democracy's very existence. But it becomes dangerous when it portrays its mortal enemy as always being in the right." Revel notes that the democracies end up blaming themselves because another power is working to destroy them, in particular, they assume that the Soviet Union's expansionism and aggressiveness is a response to Western wrongdoing internationally.

Revel suggests that although the Soviet Union is an economic basket case, and may well collapse, it may destroy the democracies before

then. He notes that the "Soviet machine for conquest must be awesomely efficient if it can go on working despite communism's inefficiency in everything else". He says that although Communism may well be a corpse, "it is a corpse that can drag us with it into the grave!" He tends to see international relations as a race to ruin between the two forms of political organisation.

Revel criticises the West for refusing to acknowledge the reality of Soviet power and influence and to stand up to it. He finds the West far too accommodating and indulgent of the Soviet Union often bending over backwards to please it. The Western democracies fail to demand reciprocity in their negotiations with the Soviets, often making concessions just to get them to the negotiating table. He is particularly critical of the detente process and notes the failure of the Soviets to live up to the Helsinki agreement of 1975. He says we should have made withdrawal from Afghanistan a prerequisite for negotiations over theatre nuclear forces in Europe.



He also notes the failure of the West to use the trade weapon as a sanction against the Soviet Union in the wake of Poland and other Soviet actions. He says that the same people who write off such sanctions as ineffective are those who maintain that trade will foster a peaceful Soviet Union. The first proposition clearly negates the possibility of the second. Revel maintains that at the very least Western governments should stop subsidising loans to the Eastern bloc and treat it in the same way as other states for the purposes of trade and economic assistance. In that way, the Soviet Union will have to face its own hard economic facts

of life and its economy will continue to be a liability to its global expansion.

Revel's book is a pessimistic one, and in my view, too pessimistic. He begins by suggesting that democracy may well turn out to be a historical aberration, noting that it has only been around for two hundred years, and been confined to very few countries. In the course of the book, he describes the world as an "implacable democracy killing machine" and notes that the "combination of forces intent on the extinction of democracy is more powerful than those bent on keeping it alive".

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The time of writing has probably contributed to his pessimism. Written in 1982, the book came immediately after the battering the global fortunes of the democracies took in the 1970s, particularly during the Carter years. It also preceded the articulation of the Reagan Doctrine, which has seen the United States giving active support for the first time to anti-communist freedom fighters in Angola, Afghanistan and Nicaragua. The rolling back of communist territorial gains is thus being considered for the first time.

1982 also saw the peace movement in full flourish in its Soviet-inspired campaign against the Euromissiles. The movement has died since and the deployment of the missiles went ahead largely as scheduled, unlike the aborted attempt at deploying enhanced radiation weapons to Europe in 1978. No doubt Revel has been heartened by the Reagan Administration's tough arms control negotiating stance, at least up until the Reykjavik sham.

Revel would also be pleased with the renewed assertiveness of the US at the UN, at the withdrawal of the US, the UK and Singapore from UNESCO, the scorn being heaped on the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the formation of the International Committee for a Community of Democracies. The number of Third World countries adopting democracy as their favoured form of political organisation has been increasing, particularly in Central and South America.

The latest edition of this book is on sale at the Co-op Bookshop now, with a new cover to cash in on the British election, with lots of pictures of Neil Kinnock on the front looking particularly rabid. In fact, the book has almost nothing to say about British politics, but it does serve as a timely reminder that the British Labour Party's policies, if ever adopted, would be catastrophic for the democracies.

THE L.S. FACTOR by Basil Hetzel and Tony McMichael, Penguin, 1987.

The L.S. Factor

The main thrust of the argument in "The L.S. Factor", is that it is possible, and preferable, that individuals be responsible for their own health, rather than entrusting their bodies to doctors when it is often too late. The authors, Basil Hetzel and Tony McMichael, take a largely sociological perspective, advancing the thesis that many of the health problems prevalent in modern Western society are highly related to

lifestyle aspects, such as diet, physical activity, alcohol intake and cigarette consumption, which in turn are related to one's socio-economic status. In past centuries, and today in underdeveloped countries, infectious diseases account for most deaths. The mortality profile has radically changed in post-industrial society; ischemic heart disease has become the major killer, with cancer

close second. To some extent this change may be linked to the dramatic increase in life expectancy which has taken place over the last century, and is still in evidence today, due mainly to a more adequate food supply, improvements in housing, and control of sanitation. Now

that the prevalence of infectious disease has been reduced and individuals live longer, they have become subject to diseases of old age, of which heart disease and cancer are two.

Industrialization has resulted in most individuals living a sedentary lifestyle, relying upon high energy, over-refined and processed foods, and combating stress with alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs. Hetzel and McMichael regard this change as underlying most health problems in contemporary developed society. They point out the close links established between a high animal

fat diet and heart disease, obesity and diabetes, alcohol and foetal abnormalities, cirrhosis of the liver and brain damage, smoking and lung cancer, chronic lung disease and coronary heart disease. They assert that dietary factors contribute to the causation of about 35% of all cancers; for instance alcohol intake is related to cancers of the mouth, pharynx, oesophagus, larynx and

liver, a low fibre and high fat diet is linked with colon cancer and other disorders of the large bowel. Regular, reasonably strenuous physical exercise, results in increased cardiovascular fitness and hence a decreased risk of heart disease, as well as promoting a general sense of wellbeing by providing a way of releasing the pent-up tensions engendered by modern industrial living.

The authors are quite convinced that health education is the key to changing people's lifestyles and ameliorating public health. They do acknowledge the difficulties inherent in the acceptance and

internalization of good health creeds by the public. They list four basic explanations for why individuals will not or cannot change their personal behaviour - lack of knowledge, lack of opportunity, the pressure to conform, and fatalism. Hetzel and McMichael do not ignore

the class factor, pointing out that individuals of low socio-economic status are more likely to die younger and suffer from heart disease and cancer at higher rates than do those of high SES. It is to the former class therefore that health education should especially be directed.

Unfortunately the socially disadvantaged are less likely to consider the long-term benefits of good health behaviour, as the pressures of their daily lives, coping with unemployment, low income or boring exploitative jobs, are such that the short-term pleasures of a drink or a cigarette tend to assume greater importance. Strategies the authors recommend include; that physicians be better educated in health promotion, that a comprehensive occupational health service be provided at the workplace, that health education should form an important part of primary and secondary education, and that the community as a whole should participate in education programmes.

In conclusion it may be asserted that "The L.S. Factor" is a book which brings the oft-neglected aspect of individual behaviour to the fore when discussing disease, in a clearly written and well-presented manner. Those individuals

concerned with their own health would do well to consult this book, as it concisely explains the problems and concepts involved, summarises the latest research findings on behaviour and health, and sets out guidelines for good health practices. For the same reasons those professionally involved in health care, policy or education and promotion should find this book useful.

Deborah Lupton

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Escape from a Better Place is Australian writer/performer Jan Cornall's first full-length play. Carol Woodrow is directing, with actors Elizabeth Paterson and Michael Fry, designer Martin King and composer Jeff Evans. It is Interact's second main-stage production for 1987.

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Escape from a Better Place will be performed in Gorman House's new cosy, heated cafe theatre. Unwind after work at the 5.30pm show and be out by 7.15pm for an early night OR come to the 9pm show and perhaps enjoy dinner before the performance, linger over a bottle of wine during the first act, tuck into dessert during interval and finish with coffee and a dessert wine during Act 2.

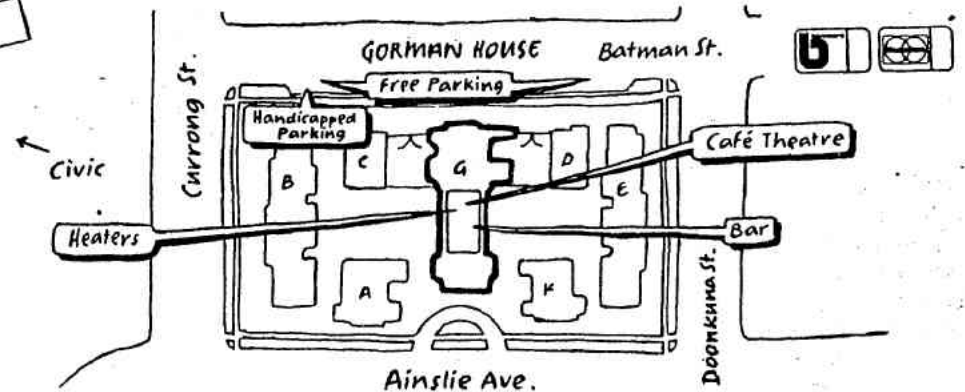
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This project was assisted by the Theatre Board of the Australia Council, the Community Development Fund of the ACT and the Canberra Times. Interact Theatre is Company-in-Residence in the English Department of the Australian National University.

Cartoon by Mary Leunig from *There's No Place Like Home*, Penguin Books Australia 1982

Blue Velvet

"To me a mystery is like a magnet. Wherever there is something unknown, it has a pull to it," explains David Lynch, writer and director of *Blue Velvet* currently screening at Electric Shadows. "If you were in a room and there was a doorway open and stairs going down and the light fell away; you couldn't even see the bottom — you'd be very much tempted to go down there," suggests Lynch.

Going up and down stairs is a recurrent motif in *Blue Velvet*, underscoring the protagonist's discovery that you don't have to go down the stairs into the dark in search of horror when there is plenty up here in the light. As one critic noted about the film's final twist — it neatly reinforces the film's theme of "not just the strangeness of what surrounds normal life, but the strangeness of normal life itself."

David Lynch's ability to go beyond civilised normality and to examine dark, irrational, nightmarish passions can be seen in his first film *Eraserhead*. This portrait of alienation and disgust — like some of Kafka's work,

beyond despair — has become a bit of a cult film. In his second film, *Elephant Man* Lynch assimilated some of the same concerns into a vividly conceived historical setting. The young director explores the same ideas and many more in his latest film by integrating genres such as teenage romance, boys' adventure comic, Gothic horror story, family situation comedy and a kind of porno-horror into an original and compelling vision.

Blue Velvet is framed by picture postcard shots of small town America — a white picket fence against a too blue sky, technicolour roses and cute robins. After a heart attack victim falls down on the manicured lawn, the film begins as an adolescent detective mystery. The protagonist, Jeffrey finds a clue to something quite untoward. After handing in the evidence to the local detective, Jeffrey follows other clues given to him by the detective's cute, blonde, wholesome daughter, Sandy — until he is deeply involved in a violent mystery.

At the heart of this mystery is Dorothy, a counterweight to the sunny schoolgirl, Sandy. Isabella Rossellini plays Dorothy as all dark disturbances. She is older,

exotic and in the grip of a brutal, power-crazy psychotic. Dennis Hopper plays this role of Frank, a man who has lost control over himself. Just as the innocuous suburban heart attack victim at the beginning of the film reminds us; we are trapped in our bodies — prey to physical stresses and sudden illnesses — we can also be trapped, like Frank by perverse passions that can rule us if not controlled. Frank does not have control over himself, so he must have power over other people. Frank uses Dorothy as an object on which to vent his intense anger, self-disgust and pain. His egocentric sexual frenzy is expressed in an out-of-control, drooling-on-her-tits kind of technique, that is to say — no technique, no concern for her and no control over himself.

Just before Jeffrey becomes immersed in this mystery of moral illness and emotional blackmail, Sandy warns him that it sounds "crazy and dangerous". Just the thing for a curious, slightly bored, small town adolescent. Sandy states: "I don't know whether you're a detective or a pervert."

Jeffrey's liaison with Dorothy demonstrates that he can be both. Frank's

moral/emotional abscess seems contagious; he infects Dorothy and she infects Jeffrey. When Jeffrey uncovers the seamier side of his Norman Rockwell-like home town, he also makes some uncomfortable discoveries about himself.

David Lynch is aware that some people will think that *Blue Velvet* is "disgusting and sick. And of course it is, but it has two sides," he explains. "If you don't have the contrasts, then maybe. But you can push the limits out much wider than *Blue Velvet*. I believe that films should have power, the power of good and the power of darkness, so you can get some thrills and shake things up. And if you back off from that stuff, you're shooting right down into luke warm junk." When there is so much "luke warm junk" about in contemporary Cinema, I think that a film as strongly committed, as riveting and as important as *Blue Velvet* should be seen.

This is a startling performance and Hopper's face at the times when he is farthest away from his humanity becomes a snarling animal mask of sickly evil anguish.

PENELOPE HANLEY

"In my dreams
you're mine ..."

THE HYPE AND air of controversy that surrounds "Blue Velvet" and the cryptic comments made by its maker David Lynch with its release will probably make this his most commercially successful film yet. As the film's central character Jeffrey keeps reminding us, "it's a strange world..."

David Lynch has always been an uncompromising and assured cinematic stylist, bold in his creations of reality, that engender a distinct *otherness*, and ensures a requisite appreciation mode by his audience. His is a narrative cinema that requires our collusion in the suspension of disbelief as he reconstructs realities mortgaged to him from the outset. "Eraserhead", "The Elephant Man", and less successfully "Dune", have been vivid allusions, an acute mixing of fact and fiction into fact, that Lynch has made out reality to be, not what it *seems* to be.

In most respects, "Blue Velvet" has continued in this visual narrative style. The immobile tranquility of suburbia in small-town Lumberton is shot in *hyper* real daylight hues like yellows and greens occasionally punctured when the camera assumes unusual angles that accentuate the asymmetry (e.g. its close-ups, ground-level shots), like in the opening sequence that sets the overall mood — nothing is what it seems, even when an old man waters his garden. Lynch's use of sound and music



also reinforces this quality of Lumberton life, where the sinister night scenes of town-thug Frank (probably the most convincing and disturbingly real character given life by Dennis Hopper) and the nightclub singer Dorothy (Isabella Rossellini) are soundtracked to the tune 'Blue Velvet' sung by her. There are a number of scenes of morbidly camp humour that derail us back into reality, a memorable scene in a brothel where the male *madam*/pimp (Dean Stockwell) croons adoringly to the deranged Frank as

the now less-than-innocent Jeffrey 'captively' looks on. It gives a perspective on the cinematic conventions used, and uncovers the assumptions of the film. What is not confronted here are the very stereotypes of sexuality that Lynch has ostensibly sought to question, by evolving a story within the structure of seemingly 'normal' lifestyles about the sado-masochism of Dorothy and Frank. Without having deconstructed the sexuality in "Blue Velvet", Lynch has been culpable in maintaining, and perhaps even

justifying, the sado-masochism of the film; of a woman's dependence on physical beatings for pleasure. It creates a loathsome and misogynistic view of women. "Blue Velvet" has not been as subversive or innovative as claimed by some critics and implied by Lynch. The audience are able to continue with their codes of cinema, merely securing their perspective of the world by these structures of meaning, the content of the film unchallenged, the *otherness* of his vision severely compromised.

KEAN WONG

VAGABOND

Agnes Varda's *Vagabond*, currently screening at the Boulevard Blue won First Prize at the Venice Film Festival. Eighteen year old Sandrine Bonnaire won a French Academy Award for Best Actress, for her role as Mona, an ex-tyrist who has taken to the road with no goals, no hope and no money. There's some truth in one man's observation of her: "Female vagrants — they're all alike — drifters who chase men." Mona takes men when she wants them and she has chosen a Spartan existence of aimless drifting through bitter winter landscapes.

The poverty of her life is conveyed very effectively; the audience can almost smell her filthy clothes and unwashed body and we feel hungry and cold with her. This sort of life is contrasted with the life of the university professor who picks up the young hitch-hiker. This woman has a life of intellectual stimulation and physical luxury, a life of lectures and conferences, hot baths and good haircuts.

These two women meet only briefly, but they affect each other. When the university professor almost has a fatal domestic accident we realise with her that the choice of security does not protect one from the possibility of bizarre accidents and sudden death. Of course the risk of accidents and death is far greater in the life of chaos and insecurity that Mona has chosen, but the point is made (rather awkwardly, I thought) that no one, no matter what choice she makes can be really secure.

The Professor tells Mona about a virus which is attacking all the plane trees in France. It was brought in by American GI's and is affecting the trees like a cancer. Some time is spent on this and we are clearly meant to draw some analogy. But the significance apart from a vague notion that the cancer might be analogous to the spreading cancer of hopelessness and alienation in young people like Mona, escapes me.

Mona is portrayed as being very tough, but she is also very much a victim. There is some religious symbolism in the film, and in particular symbols of martyrdom. She is the victim of the elements, the victim of hard times and at least the potential victim of every man she meets. She constantly fends off the unwelcome attentions of men and is dependent upon the goodwill of men for food, cigarettes and work.

Vagabond is framed by the ultimate image of Mona as victim. Victim of men, victim of poverty and the hunger and cold that goes with it, victim of Nature, but most of all Mona is a portrait of a victim of hopelessness.



TRAVELLING NORTH

I've been asked to write a review of *Travelling North* because the other reviewer found it simply "too heart-warmingly cosy" to want to write about it. It is sentimental, but I didn't find it cloyingly so. It is the story of Frank (Leo McKern) who has a dream of retiring to a Paradise up north with the beautiful, gentle Frances. Predictably, the "Paradise in the sun" he imagines is not without its complications and problems.

One of the problems is an ocker next door neighbour — an opportunity for Graham Kennedy to ham it up nicely. A complication is Frank's failing health, and Henry Szeps (Gary MacDonald's odious brother in *Mother and Son*) as the doctor gives a warm and witty performance. Not least of the complications of Frank's story is Frank's character — loyal Frances has to put up with — and Frank himself must come to terms with — his self-centredness, his bad-tempered impatience, his sarcastic intolerance of other people and a strong streak of the tyrant.

Another problem is Frances' unhappily married daughters in Melbourne — coping — or not coping — with arrogant or unfaithful husbands, their small children

etc. ("Another letter from the baby farm down south?" sneers Frank when Frances gets the mail.) They are anxious for her, going off with "an old man who wants someone to look after him" and also they need her and their emotional pull on her is strong. Michele Fawdon and Diane Craig are really superb as the daughters. The scenes of family politics are beautifully handled; the audience identifies strongly with the funny and exasperating problems, laughing and wincing in instant recognition.

Cari Schultz directed David Williamson's play and Williamson is very happy with the result. Julian Penney's cinematography is well done, making good use of the scope afforded by locations in a dreary Melbourne winter and a north Queensland drenched in sunlight.

My only criticism is that while I wouldn't say the film is superficial, I don't think it is as deep as it has pretensions to being. It is a well made film and the acting is wonderful, but most of all it really is very, very funny.

PENELOPE HANLEY

ROOM TO MOVE: Childers Street Theatre, 6-27 June 1987: Eureka! Theatre Company

Room to Move, by Melbourne playwright Hannie Rayson, is a feminist play. To label a work "feminist" often effectively precludes it from mainstream appeal as the average playgoer is discouraged by the all-too-familiar stereotyped image of feminists and all they stand for. As Rayson herself has commented —

"... it appears still to be most unfashionable to continue discussing issues to do with feminism. It is certainly unfashionable to be labelled a feminist... feminists have been marginalised into a ratbag fringe. I fear that we are coming into a more conservative era, and a lot of the advances which were made in the 60s and 70s will slip away, and women will suffer the first cutbacks."

Room to Move is certainly an attempt to reverse this trend by challenging the tired feminist stereotype. Those who expect to see a cast of hordes of boiler-suited women with spiked hair screaming "Smash Patriarchy" and "We Hate Men" are disappointed. The play grew out of interviews with eight men in a discussion group over a six-week period, the playwright's attempt to assess the impact of feminism on Australian men. The play itself examines relationships between men and women and how they have altered since the sexual revolution began in Australia. Rayson focuses on six such individuals: Peggy (Joyce Glynn), a 62-year-old widow whose loneliness leads her to take in the drifting 30-ish Bernie (David Walker) as a boarder; Peggy's feminist daughter, Virginia (Liz Bradley) and her academic de facto husband Howard (Phil Mackenzie); Peggy's conventional son Roger (Phil Roberts) and his decorative young wife Elly (Lisa Angrove). These six characters all exhibit dissatisfaction with their place in the social order of the 1980s, an order free of the rigid behavioural guidelines of the 1950s. The solutions to their problems are no longer provided by referring to an absolute moral standard but must be found within each individual, and the play reveals the loneliness of each character as s/he struggles with this realization.

Although *Room to Move* offers a serious examination of the dynamics of modern relationships, it is not a vehicle for sombre breast-beating — it does not preach. The play's more thought-provoking messages are accompanied by a strong dose of humour which keeps the audience laughing at the characters and their mannerisms. This balance between intensity and light humour was skilfully maintained in the Eureka! Theatre Company's recent production of *Room to Move*, directed by Alanna Maclean. I particularly enjoyed the performances of Phil Roberts as the very uptight, very chauvinist lawyer Roger; of Liz Bradley as the "ideologically sound", Virginia, and of Phil Mackenzie as the housebound, writer's-blocked Howard. The play was a very pleasing introduction to the talents of Eureka!, Canberra's newest professional theatre company. If it can maintain the standard of entertainment provided in *Room to Move*, the Eureka! Theatre Company should be very successful indeed.

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